REPORT 3: TOTAL SURVIVABILITY — WHAT IRAN HAS LEFT TO FIGHT WITH AFTER THE OPENING U.S. STRIKE PACKAGE

Assessment Level: High Confidence (Synthesis of Reports 1 & 2, Post-2025 War Performance, Documented ORBAT, Doctrinal Adaptations)
Assumption: Iran has implemented all post-June 2025 doctrinal and structural adaptations. The U.S. executes its maximum opening strike package as described in previous reports.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report synthesizes the survivability assessments of Iran's air defense and naval forces into a **holistic picture of national resilience**. It addresses the core question: **After the U.S. opening strike package (cyber/EW, Tomahawk barrage, stealth penetration, SEAD hunt), what Iranian forces remain operational to "hit the ground running" with retaliatory strikes?**

Bottom Line Up Front: The U.S. opening strike package, while devastating, is designed for **temporary degradation, not systemic destruction.** Iran's forces are specifically configured to absorb this blow, preserve a significant portion of their capabilities, and execute **pre-planned, multi-axis retaliation** within hours. After the opening 72 hours, Iran retains:

- **60-70% of mobile medium-range SAMs** (3rd Khordad, Tabas, Raad)
- **50-60% of strategic SAMs** (Bavar-373, S-300)
- **80%+ of counter-stealth detection** (YLC-8B, MuF radars, Hafez EO/IR)
- **70-80% of coastal ASCM batteries** (mobile TELs)
- **80-90% of FAC swarm craft**
- **90%+ of pre-laid naval mines**
- **80%+ of submarine force** (especially Ghadir-class)
- **100% of strategic missile reserves** (Khorramshahr-4, Sejjil, hypersonics, Paveh cruise missiles)
- **70-80% of tactical missile forces** (Zolfaghar, Fateh, Khyber)
- **100% of Axis of Resistance forces** (Hezbollah, Iraqi PMF, Houthis)

The "Ground Running" Force: Iran's post-strike capabilities are not a scattered remnant but a **coherent, pre-planned second-strike architecture** designed to:

1. **Retaliate against U.S. regional bases** (Al Udeid, Muwaffaq Salti, Prince Sultan)
2. **Strike Israeli infrastructure** (airbases, ports, energy facilities)
3. **Engage U.S. naval forces** in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea
4. **Activate the Axis of Resistance** for multi-theater saturation
5. **Maintain air defense over remaining high-value targets**

SECTION 1: THE U.S. OPENING STRIKE PACKAGE — WHAT IT TARGETS

Based on the force posture in the provided charts and established U.S. doctrine, the opening strike package is designed to achieve three simultaneous objectives:

1.1 Phase 1: Blinding the IADS (H-Hour to H+15 Minutes)

Target Set	Weapons	Objective
Early Warning Radars (Ghadir, Najm, Nazir, MuF sites)	TLAM, JASSM-ER, cyber/EA-18G	Degrade long-range detection
Strategic SAM Garrisons (S-300, Bavar-373 known sites)	TLAM, JASSM-ER	Destroy fixed launchers, C2 nodes
Sector Operations Centers (SOCs) (Tehran, Isfahan, etc.)	TLAM, cyber	Disrupt national-level C2
Communication Nodes (Ya Zahra network hubs)	Cyber, EA-18G, TLAM	Isolate sectors

1.2 Phase 2: Stealth Penetration (H+30 Minutes to H+90 Minutes)

Target Set	Weapons	Objective
Remaining Strategic SAMs (Bavar-373, S-300 that survived Phase 1)	F-35A, F-22 with GBU-31/Bunker Busters	Destroy mobile launchers
Hardened C2 Bunkers ("Project Eagle" entrances)	F-35A, B-2 with GBU-57	Decapitate leadership
Nuclear Facilities (Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan)	F-35A, B-2 with GBU-57	Degrade nuclear program
Missile Production Facilities	F-35A, F-15E with JDAM	Disrupt missile production

1.3 Phase 3: SEAD Hunt (H+60 Minutes to H+24 Hours)

Target Set	Weapons	Objective
Radiating SAMs (any emitter detected)	F-16CJ with AARGM-ER, EA-18G	Suppress remaining IADS

Mobile SAM Hide Sites (known locations)	F-15E, F-35A with JDAM	Destroy launchers before they can shoot
Coastal Defense Batteries (ASCM/ASBM TELs)	TLAM, carrier-based F/A-18E/F	Suppress naval A2/AD

SECTION 2: PHASED SURVIVABILITY ASSESSMENT

2.1 Pre-Opening Posture — What Iran Has Already Done

Before the first bomb drops, Iran has executed **Phase 0: The Transparent Build-Up**:

Action	Effect on Survivability
Leadership dispersal to hardened bunkers	Decapitation impossible
Strategic SAMs (Bavar-373, S-300) relocated from fixed garrisons to mobile hide sites	Avoid Phase 1 TLAM strikes
Mobile SAMs (3rd Khordad, Tabas, Raad) dispersed to Zagros valleys, western approaches	Survive to ambush SEAD flights
ASCM batteries moved from known coastal positions to pre-surveyed alternate launch points	Survive to strike U.S. Navy
FAC swarm hidden in coves, under bridges, among civilian vessels	Survive to launch saturation attacks
Submarines deployed to ambush positions, lying silent	Undetectable; survive entire campaign
Naval mines pre-laid in Strait of Hormuz	Cannot be targeted; close Strait instantly
Strategic missile reserves (Khorramshahr-4, Sejjil) moved to central/eastern underground facilities	Survive to execute second-strike

2.2 Phase 1: Blinding the IADS — Survivability Assessment

Target Set	Pre-Strike Count	Estimated Survival	Notes

Early Warning Radars	24+ sites	50-60%	YLC-8B (mobile) survives; MuF radars (mobile) survive; fixed OTH radars (Nazir, Ghadir) attrited
Strategic SAM Garrisons	6-8 batteries	0% (fixed)	But batteries were already empty; launchers dispersed
Sector Operations Centers (SOCs)	9	60-70%	Fakour C2 at group level ensures local autonomy even if SOC damaged
Ya Zahra Network Hubs	Multiple	50-60%	Redundant fiber-optic and microwave links; Protocol 7 severs compromised nodes

Outcome: The IADS is **degraded but not blinded.** National-level C2 is disrupted, but regional sectors retain autonomous combat capability. Counter-stealth detection (YLC-8B, MuF, Hafez) remains largely intact.

2.3 Phase 2: Stealth Penetration — Survivability Assessment

Target Set	U.S. Objective	Iranian Counter	Estimated Survival
Strategic SAMs (Bavar-373, S-300)	Destroy mobile launchers	YLC-8B/MuF detect F-35/F-22; cue SAMs to go dark or ambush	50-60% of batteries survive
Hardened C2 Bunkers	Decapitate leadership	Leadership 40m+ underground in "Project Eagle"; multiple redundant nodes	Leadership 100% intact
Nuclear Facilities	Degrade program	Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan hit; but underground centrifuges survive; reconstruction begins immediately	Program degraded but not destroyed
Missile Production Facilities	Disrupt production	Solid-fuel lines now underground; liquid-fuel lines dispersed; western facilities damaged, central/eastern intact	Production capacity 60-70% intact

Outcome: The stealth penetration achieves **tactical hits but strategic failure.** Leadership survives. Strategic SAMs survive in sufficient numbers to contest follow-on strikes. Missile production continues.

2.4 Phase 3: SEAD Hunt — Survivability Assessment

Target Set	U.S. Objective	Iranian Counter	Estimated Survival

Radiating SAMs	Suppress IADS	"Shoot-and-scoot": emit briefly, fire, relocate; passive Mersad-16 ambushes	70-80% of mobile SAMs survive
Mobile SAM Hide Sites	Destroy launchers	Decoys, camouflage, pre-surveyed alternate hides	60-70% of launchers survive
Coastal Defense Batteries	Suppress naval A2/AD	Mobile TELs relocate; fire from new positions	70-80% of ASCM batteries survive

Outcome: The SEAD hunt is a **continuous, attritional campaign**, not a one-time knockout. U.S. forces will kill some mobile SAMs and ASCM batteries each day, but the majority survive to fight on.

SECTION 3: WHAT IRAN HAS LEFT — THE "GROUND RUNNING" FORCE

3.1 Air Defense — Post-Opening (H+72 Hours)

Layer	Surviving Capability	Count (Est.)	Function
Counter-Stealth Detection	YLC-8B, MuF-2/3, Hafez	80%+	Detect follow-on U.S. strikes; cue SAMs
Strategic SAM	Bavar-373, S-300	50-60% (4-5 batteries)	Engage high-value aircraft; protect remaining HVT
Medium-Range Mobile SAM	3rd Khordad, Tabas, Raad, Talash	70-80% (30-40 batteries)	Ambush strike packages; deny air superiority
Point Defense	Pantsir, Majid, Tor	50-60%	Protect remaining HVT; complicate low-altitude ops
MANPADS	Thousands	100%	Ubiquitous threat to low-flying aircraft

Assessment: Iran retains a **layered, survivable IADS** capable of contesting U.S. air operations over key areas. The U.S. cannot assume air superiority after the opening strikes.

3.2 Naval Forces — Post-Opening (H+72 Hours)

Capability	Surviving Force	Count (Est.)	Function

Coastal ASCM Batteries	Mobile TELs (Ghadir/Qader/Noor/Khalij Fars)	70-80% (40-50 batteries)	Threaten U.S. vessels in Persian Gulf and Strait
FAC Swarm	Small craft (Tir, Paykaap, Ashura, etc.)	80-90% (500+ vessels)	Saturation attacks; harass MCM forces
Shahid Soleimani-class	Corvettes	50-60% (2-3 vessels)	Coordinate swarm attacks; fire ASCMs
Submarines (Ghadir)	Midget subs	80-90% (16-24 vessels)	Ambush U.S. vessels in Strait and Gulf of Oman
Submarines (Kilo/Fateh)	Conventional subs	50-60% (3-5 vessels)	Threaten CSGs in Arabian Sea
Naval Mines	Pre-laid	100%	Strait remains closed until swept

Assessment: Iran's naval A2/AD network is **largely intact.** The Persian Gulf remains a **contested environment.** The Strait of Hormuz is closed. U.S. naval operations face continuous threat.

3.3 Missile Forces — Post-Opening (H+72 Hours)

Missile Type	Surviving Force	Count (Est.)	Function
Strategic MRBM (Khorramshahr-4, Sejjil)	100% (withheld)	Several hundred	Second-strike; deep targets (Israel, GCC bases)
Strategic MRBM (Khorramshahr-3, Emad, Ghadr)	60-70% (some used, some withheld)	300-400	Retaliatory strikes; saturation
Tactical SRBM (Zolfaghar, Fateh, Khyber)	70-80% (western bases damaged, central/eastern intact)	500-700	Strike regional bases; naval targets
Land-Attack Cruise Missiles (Soumar, Abu Mahdi, Paveh)	80-90% (withheld)	200-300	Penetrate defenses; hit high-value targets
ASBM (Khalij Fars, Sejjil-ASBM)	80-90%	100-150	Threaten U.S. carriers and surface vessels
ASCM (Ghadir, Qader, Noor)	70-80%	1000+	Naval strikes

Assessment: Iran's missile forces are **the primary surviving offensive arm.** The strategic reserve (Khorramshahr-4, Sejjil, Paveh) is completely intact. Tactical forces have been partially attrited in western Iran but remain capable of sustained operations from central/eastern bases.

3.4 Axis of Resistance — Post-Opening (H+72 Hours)

Force	Capability	Status
Hezbollah	100,000+ rockets, precision missiles	**100% intact**; withheld from 12-Day War
Iraqi PMF	Drones, short-range missiles, rockets	**90%+ intact**; can strike U.S. bases in Iraq
Yemeni Ansarallah	Ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones	**90%+ intact**; can strike UAE, Saudi, Eilat

Assessment: The Axis of Resistance is **completely untouched** by the opening U.S. strike package. It remains a **multi-theater strategic asset** that can be activated on Iran's command.

SECTION 4: WHAT IRAN MUST HIT — PRIORITY TARGETS FOR RETALIATION

4.1 Priority 1: U.S. Carrier Strike Group (CSG)

Threat Axis	Assets	Timing	Objective
ASBM (Khalij Fars, Sejjil-ASBM)	Coastal batteries, mobile TELs	H+2 to H+6	Force CSG to maneuver defensively, disrupt flight operations, mission-kill a carrier
ASCM Saturation (Ghadir/Qader)	Coastal batteries, Shahid Soleimani-class, FACs	H+2 to H+12	Overwhelm Aegis defenses; hit escorts
Submarine Ambush (Kilo/Ghadir)	Pre-positioned in Gulf of Oman	H+12 to H+48	Torpedo or ASCM attack on CSG or logistics vessel
Drone Swarm (Shahed-136)	Coastal launch sites	H+2 to continuous	Saturation; divert defensive missiles

Why This Matters: A mission-killed or damaged carrier is a **catastrophic political and operational blow** to the U.S. It forces the entire CSG to withdraw for repairs, reducing U.S. air power by 50% in theater.

4.2 Priority 2: Al Udeid Air Base (Qatar)

Threat Axis	Assets	Timing	Objective
Ballistic Missile (Ghadr/Emad/Khyber)	Western Iran missile bases	H+3 to H+6	Destroy aircraft, crater runways, disrupt sortie generation
Cruise Missile (Soumar/Abu Mahdi/Paveh)	Mobile TELs	H+3 to H+6	Penetrate defenses; hit hangars, C2 nodes
Drone Swarm	Coastal Iraq/Syria launch	H+6 to continuous	Overwhelm point defense; harass

Why This Matters: Al Udeid hosts **bombers, tankers, and ISR aircraft.** Destroying even one B-1B or KC-135 on the ground is a major blow. Patriot batteries at Al Udeid went **mobile** in early 2026, indicating U.S. expects this base to be a primary target. [Nahle Report]

4.3 Priority 3: Muwaffaq Salti Air Base (Jordan)

Threat Axis	Assets	Timing	Objective
Ballistic Missile (Zolfaghar/Fateh)	Western Iran, Iraqi PMF	H+3 to H+6	Destroy F-35As, A-10s, EA-18Gs
Cruise Missile	Mobile TELs	H+3 to H+6	Penetrate defenses
Drone Swarm	Iraqi PMF	H+6 to continuous	Overwhelm point defense

Why This Matters: Muwaffaq Salti hosts **12 F-35As, 24 A-10s, and 6 EA-18G Growlers.** This is the **primary SEAD/DEAD base** for western axis strikes. Neutralizing it severely degrades U.S. ability to suppress Iranian IADS in the opening days.

4.4 Priority 4: Israeli Infrastructure

Target	Assets	Objective
Ramon and Nevatim Airbases	Ghadr/Emad ballistic missiles	Destroy aircraft, crater runways

Haifa Port and Refinery	Soumar/Abu Mahdi cruise missiles	Disrupt logistics, energy infrastructure
Tel Aviv (Camp Robin/Kirya)	Khyber/Sejjil missiles	Decapitate military command
Dimona Nuclear Facility	Khorramshahr-4 (withheld)	Strategic deterrent target

Why This Matters: Striking Israel directly ties the U.S. to a broader conflict and forces Israeli defenses to expend interceptors, depleting their limited stocks.

4.5 Priority 5: U.S. Bases in Iraq (Ain al-Assad, Erbil)

Threat Axis	Assets	Objective
Drone Swarm	Iraqi PMF	Harass, divert U.S. air power
Short-Range Missiles	Iraqi PMF	Destroy logistics, aircraft

Why This Matters: These bases are less critical but serve as **force multipliers** by diverting U.S. air assets from the main fight in Iran.

SECTION 5: THE RETALIATION SEQUENCE — WHAT "HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING" LOOKS LIKE

5.1 Timeline (From 12-Day War Experience, Adapted)

Time	Action	Executing Force
H+2 to H+3	First wave of ballistic missiles (Ghadr/Emad) launched at Al Udeid, Muwaffaq Salti, and Israeli airbases	IRGC-ASF (western/central Iran)
H+3 to H+4	ASBM (Khalij Fars) launches at U.S. carrier group	Coastal defense (Makran coast)
H+3 to H+6	Cruise missile (Soumar/Abu Mahdi) strikes on Haifa, Al Udeid, Muwaffaq Salti	IRGC-ASF (mobile TELs)
H+4 to H+8	Drone swarms (Shahed-136) launched at all regional U.S. bases	IRGC-ASF, Iraqi PMF
H+6 to H+12	FAC swarm sorties against U.S. Navy in Persian Gulf	IRGCN

H+12 to H+24	Submarine ambushes (Ghadir/Kilo) against U.S. vessels	IRIN/IRGCN
H+24+	Continuous missile and drone strikes; Axis of Resistance activation (Hezbollah, Houthis)	All forces

5.2 Saturation Strategy

Wave	Composition	Objective
Wave 1 (Saturation)	200-300 older missiles (Ghadr/Emad/Zolfaghar)	Deplete U.S./Israeli interceptor stocks
Wave 2 (Precision)	100-150 advanced missiles (Khyber/Khorramshahr/Sejjil)	Hit high-value targets (airbases, C2, infrastructure)
Wave 3 (Cruise/Drone)	100+ cruise missiles, 500+ drones	Overwhelm point defense; continuous harassment
Wave 4 (Axis)	Hezbollah rockets, Houthi missiles, Iraqi drones	Multi-theater saturation; force defenses to split

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SECTION 6: SYNTHESIS — WHAT IRAN HAS TO FIGHT WITH

6.1 Post-Strike Force Summary

Domain	Surviving Capability	Operational Significance
Air Defense	Layered IADS (60-80% intact)	Contests U.S. air superiority; protects remaining HVT
Naval A2/AD	70-90% intact	Strait remains closed; U.S. Navy under constant threat
Strategic Missiles	100% intact (withheld)	Second-strike capability against deep targets
Tactical Missiles	70-80% intact	Sustained strikes on regional bases
Axis of Resistance	100% intact	Multi-theater escalation; overwhelms defenses
Leadership	100% intact	Decapitation failed; command continuity

Nuclear Program	Degraded but reconstituting	Long-term deterrent remains

6.2 The "Ground Running" Force — What Iran Can Do Immediately

Within the first 24-48 hours after the opening U.S. strike, Iran can:

1. **Launch 300-500 ballistic missiles** at regional U.S. bases and Israeli targets.
2. **Fire 100-200 cruise missiles** at high-value infrastructure.
3. **Deploy 500+ drones** for saturation and harassment.
4. **Execute ASBM strikes** on U.S. carrier group.
5. **Sortie FAC swarm** against U.S. Navy in Persian Gulf.
6. **Activate Axis of Resistance** for multi-theater attacks.
7. **Maintain layered air defense** over remaining HVT.

6.3 The Strategic Message

Iran's post-strike capabilities are not a scattered remnant but a **coherent, pre-planned second-strike architecture** designed to:

- **Impose prohibitive costs** on U.S. forces and regional allies.
- **Demonstrate resilience** to domestic and international audiences.
- **Force the U.S. into a war of attrition** it cannot sustain politically or economically.
- **Preserve strategic reserves** for follow-on phases of conflict.

SECTION 7: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

7.1 What the U.S. Wanted to Achieve

Objective	Achieved?	Why/Why Not
Decapitate Iranian leadership	**No**	Leadership dispersed to hardened bunkers; survived
Destroy IADS	**Partially**	IADS degraded but not destroyed; retains significant capability
Neutralize missile forces	**No**	Strategic reserves intact; tactical forces partially attrited
Prevent retaliation	**No**	Retaliation is guaranteed and multi-axis

Protect regional bases	**No**	Al Udeid, Muwaffaq Salti, Prince Sultan under sustained attack
Protect U.S. Navy	**Partially**	CSG under ASBM/submarine threat; Persian Gulf contested
Achieve quick victory	**No**	War of attrition begins

7.2 What the U.S. Faces Instead

Reality	Implication
Iran retains survivable IADS	U.S. cannot achieve uncontested air superiority
Iran retains survivable naval A2/AD	U.S. Navy cannot operate freely in Persian Gulf
Iran retains strategic missile reserves	Deep targets remain at risk throughout conflict
Iran retains Axis of Resistance	Multi-theater war from day one
Iran retains leadership and command	No collapse; war continues
U.S. bases are under constant attack	Sortie generation degraded; logistics complicated

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CONCLUSION

The U.S. opening strike package, while the most powerful conventional air campaign in history, is **designed for a war that no longer exists.** It assumes a brittle, centralized IADS, a leadership vulnerable to decapitation, and an adversary incapable of surviving the first blow. Iran's post-2025 adaptations have rendered these assumptions obsolete.

What survives the opening strike is not a remnant but a designed second-strike force. Iran retains:

- The ability to **detect and contest** U.S. air operations.
- The ability to **deny U.S. naval forces** access to the Persian Gulf.
- The ability to **strike U.S. regional bases** with sustained missile and drone attacks.
- The ability to **activate a multi-theater Axis** that overwhelms U.S. and Israeli defenses.
- The ability to **preserve strategic reserves** for the long war.

The "Hollywood scenario" of a single, decisive knockout blow is a fantasy. The real war begins after the opening strikes, when Iran's surviving forces execute their pre-planned retaliation and the U.S. must face a prolonged, costly, and politically unsustainable conflict.

Iran's forces are not just surviving. They are **hitting the ground running**—and the ground they are running on is the U.S. Central Command's worst nightmare.